

MinSoc Postgraduate Student Bursary Funding Report

By Stacy Phillips

Thanks to the generous funding received from MinSoc I was lucky enough to travel and present my PhD research at the [Himalayan-Karakorum-Tibet Workshop 2018](#) in Lausanne, Switzerland. The event started with what I regard to be the best part of being a geologist – a field-trip! Thirty researchers from across the world were treated to a journey through a cross-section of the Western Swiss Alps, led by Prof. Jean-Luc Epard, Dr. Martin Robyr, Nicolas Buchs, and Adrien Pantet of the University of Lausanne. Over the course of three days we were treated to a range of spectacular geological features, from the pre-Alpine basement of the Aiguilles Rouges and its continental sedimentary cover, to the karstic landscape of the Lapis de Tsanfleuron of the Diablerets nappe, to the complicated metasediments of the Penninic nappes. The weather was good to us for the majority of the time, treating us to beautiful Alpine views with blue skies, and there was even a Swiss cow



or too.

Emosson Lake – A migmatitic zone of the Aiguilles Rouges basement, with an excellent outcrop just out of reach!

Senin Lake Dam - Dr. Martin Robyr in front of the spectacular recumbent folds of the Sublage and Mont-Gond Helvetic nappes.



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Lapis de Tsanfleuron - The karstic landscape of Cretaceous limestones of the Diablerets nappe.

The conference itself started the following day, and with a Keynote talk at 9am, no less. Peter Molnar, a legend of the Himalayan tectonics field, spoke about his work on the growth of the Tibetan Plateau, (a recording of which can be found [here](#).) Following this excellent start to the day the conference carried on for 3 days. We enjoyed talks and posters in a number of different topical sessions but always centred on the Himalayan mountains and its surrounding environs. Presentations ranged from structural geology and geodynamics, to natural hazards and seismology, to mineralogy and petrology, which was the session I was presenting in. I presented my PhD research on kyanite leucogranites in E Bhutan, detailing how different generations of kyanite can be identified using cathodoluminescence textures and trace element geochemistry. It was my first time presenting a talk at an international conference, and led to a number of interesting conversations regarding my work. And it seems it was particularly well received as I was the recipient of an Outstanding Student Presentation Award! An unexpected bonus from an excellent conference. Once again I'd like to thank MinSoc for awarding me the Postgraduate Student Bursary and allowing me to attend this meeting.



Stacy Phillips & Tim Webster (MSc. graduate of University of Plymouth) with their Student Presentation Awards.